



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Government  
Publications

Winter 2002-2003

# SchoolNet

**MAGAZINE**

*Making a Difference with ICT*

CA1  
IST  
-S14

3 1761 11766435 9

## Featuring...

How Well Do You Know  
SchoolNet's Web  
Neighbours?

Partnership Helps  
Students Take on  
New Roles

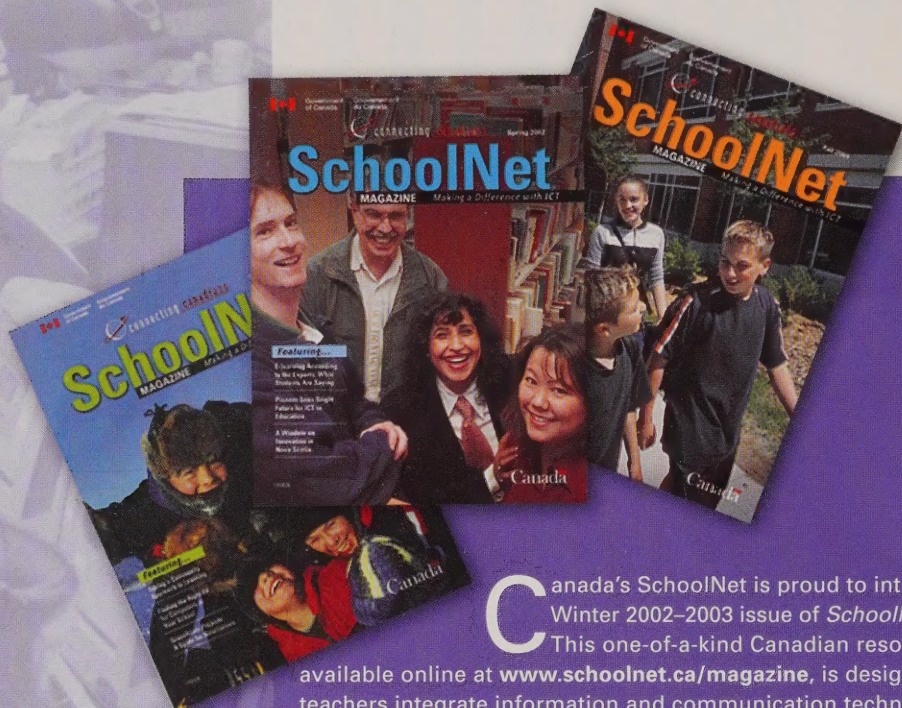
Taking the "Room"  
Out of "Classroom"

Canada

*It's Here!*

# SchoolNet

**MAGAZINE** *Making a Difference with ICT*



Canada's SchoolNet is proud to introduce the Winter 2002-2003 issue of *SchoolNet Magazine*. This one-of-a-kind Canadian resource, also available online at [www.schoolnet.ca/magazine](http://www.schoolnet.ca/magazine), is designed to help teachers integrate information and communication technology (ICT) into the classroom.

Filled with articles showcasing best practices and innovative uses of ICT for learning, *SchoolNet Magazine* will help you start and complete exciting, creative and collaborative Internet-based classroom projects.

To complement the feature articles, you will find in each issue new and interesting pieces on five distinct themes linked directly to SchoolNet objectives:

- **The Net and Beyond** for connectivity
- **Handy-Dandy Canadian Resources** for content
- **The Learning Curve** for professional development
- **Outside the Box** for innovation and research
- **Look Before You Leap** for social issues.

*SchoolNet Magazine* was designed to fit your needs. We hope you enjoy it!

We appreciate your feedback.  
Call 1 800 575-9200,  
fax (613) 941-1296 or  
e-mail [schoolnet@ic.gc.ca](mailto:schoolnet@ic.gc.ca)  
to let us know what you think  
of *SchoolNet Magazine*.

See *SchoolNet Magazine's* online version at [www.schoolnet.ca/magazine](http://www.schoolnet.ca/magazine)

## *The Net and Beyond* 10

### **Networking in the Far North**

For students in the isolated northern community of Kangirsuq, networking is essential. Their small town doesn't have a library, a museum or a newspaper stand.

## *Handy-Dandy Canadian Resources* 12

### **Helping Kids Surf: Practical Tips for Parents**

Practical tips for the Internet generation.

## *The Learning Curve* 14

### **Feeding Your ICT Creativity**

Get explicit about the possibilities of ICT through workshops and conferences.

## *Outside the Box* 16

### **Communication Reaches New Heights**

A new tool allows students and teachers at 12 rural schools in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Ontario to communicate with their peers all over Canada.

## *Look Before You Leap* 17

### **Taking a Stand Against Online Crime**

With Cybertip.ca, help is on the way.

## ADVERTISER INDEX

For more information, please contact SchoolNet at 1 800 555-9266, by fax at (613) 941-1296 or by e-mail at [schoolnet@ic.gc.ca](mailto:schoolnet@ic.gc.ca), or visit the Web site [www.schoolnet.ca](http://www.schoolnet.ca) and [www.schoolnet.ca/magazine](http://www.schoolnet.ca/magazine).

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	4
Virtual Museum Canada	7
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency	11
The Youth Zone	19
SchoolNet GrassRoots Program	22



## Features

### **3 How Well Do You Know SchoolNet's Web Neighbours?**

That might seem a rather odd question to ask. After all, the Web's reputation as a community of learning resources is hardly news.

### **5 Partnership Helps Students Take on New Roles**

Students at Canso High School aren't just students anymore — they're businesspeople and educators.

### **6 Taking the "Room" Out of "Classroom"**

Distance learning provides flexibility for both students and school administrators by using the Internet to make courses available online.

## **Integrating New Media Into Education**

Teaching new media is different from teaching other subjects. Animation, digital video, graphic design and Web design all involve pre-production, production and post-production strategies. **8**

## **Online Atlas Showcases Canada**

The Atlas of Canada helps teachers turn geography lessons into interactive learning experiences. **11**

## **Follow the Path to YouthPath**

A one-stop shop for government programs, services and information for youth. **18**

## **Be Bright — Think Right**

This national child safety program is designed to educate children about bullying, school bus safety, diversity and respect, and Internet safety. **18**

## **Share Your Resources!**

Innovative teachers network and share ideas. **18**

## **Go Global in the Classroom**

Encourage your students to become citizens of the world and help them discover the important role Canadians play overseas. **20**

## **Latest Arrival on the SchoolNet Network of Innovative Schools Site!**

SchoolNet's Network of Innovative Schools has launched a monthly e-zine. **20**

## **deal.org Makes it Happen for Youth**

Youth from Ottawa are out to prove that young people can make a difference, both on the Internet and in their communities. **21**

# Editor's Note

## Reports From the Field

**T**his year is shaping up to be an excellent one for educators using information and communications technology (ICT).

Because of ICT, kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) education is moving out of the cramped quarters of an old paradigm into the spacious and lofty quarters of a new one.

As is always the case with a major move, there are a lot of painful decisions to make. Not all the old furniture fits in the new location, some items clash with the new decor, other items take up space and a number constantly get in the way, no matter where you put them.

K-12 education appears to have reached the point at which educators integrating ICT understand that their goal lies beyond merely acquiring and updating ICT. Their new ICT goal focusses on how and where to use appropriate technology well. In fact, government institutions and researchers worldwide, as well as educators, are now articulating this new understanding of ICT's role.

This new thinking is vitally important. Habitually, planners still sing the praises of ICT in K-12 education as though it were a brand-new idea. In fact, ICT was around under the old paradigm, when technology was seen through rose-coloured glasses as a panacea.

This bit of history should inspire us to be cautious, lest we inadvertently migrate rusty misconceptions about ICT from the old paradigm into the new one.

Above all, in getting rid of "the sage on the stage" for "the guide on the side," let's not inadvertently throw out the teacher!

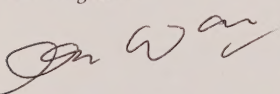
Teaching is still a visionary activity. Without the wisdom and the gifts of teachers, ICT tools in education are little more than fancy gadgets. Without teachers to perceive and bring forth the potential in their students, all the multimedia creativity in the world, using sophisticated desktop publishing equipment and state-of-the-art video editors, would result in little more than decorative icing camouflaging a Styrofoam cake.

This issue of *SchoolNet Magazine* focusses on using ICT well and on selecting the exact ICT tool to meet the needs of individual learners. In particular, this issue's reports from the field show people using ICT in imaginative new ways as a tool for learning.

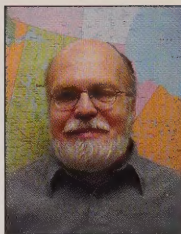
Journalist Stephanie Mitchell sends us reports on two schools in Nova Scotia and northern Quebec that use ICT to extend the reach of learning. Samir Khan reports on New Brunswick's seminal work in e-courses for distance education.

From his school in the south-central interior of British Columbia, teacher David Richardson reports on intriguing differences he finds between teaching new media and teaching other subjects to today's students. Finally, student Jennifer Kelly, reporting from Roncalli Central High School in Port Saunders, Newfoundland and Labrador, gives us her first-hand account of the empowering impact that broadband high-speed satellite technology is having on learning in her school.

Yes, it's an exciting year for ICT in our schools! We hope you enjoy this issue of our magazine.



Doug Walker  
Editor



# SchoolNet

MAGAZINE

## PUBLISHER

Canada's SchoolNet

## EDITOR

Doug Walker

## EDITING

Whitehall Associates

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Beth Clarke, Lyne Martin,  
Zoë Macdonald

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Nancy Grenier, Jennifer Kelly,  
Samir Khan, Matthew Limarilli,  
Zoë Macdonald, Stephanie Mitchell,  
David Richardson, Sophie Scherrer,  
Jane Tallim, Doug Walker

## PROJECT COORDINATOR

Lyne Martin, Zoë Macdonald

## ART DIRECTOR

Javier Frutos, ACART

## PRODUCTION

Rebecca Neilson, ACART

*SchoolNet Magazine* is a cost-shared publication. If your company is interested in participating, please contact Carolyn Lamothe at (613) 998-9881 or send an e-mail to [lamothe.carolyn@ic.gc.ca](mailto:lamothe.carolyn@ic.gc.ca).

**Permission to Reproduce.** Except as otherwise specifically noted, the information in this publication may be reproduced, in part or in whole and by any means, without charge or further permission from Industry Canada, provided that due diligence is exercised in ensuring the accuracy of the information reproduced; that Industry Canada is identified as the source institution; and that the reproduction is not represented as an official version of the information reproduced, nor as having been made in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of, Industry Canada.

For permission to reproduce the information in this publication for commercial redistribution, please e-mail:

[copyright.droitdauteur@communication.gc.ca](mailto:copyright.droitdauteur@communication.gc.ca).

ISSN: 1206-0062

Address all correspondence to  
Canada's SchoolNet, Industry Canada,  
155 Queen Street, Room 441,  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5, or  
contact SchoolNet at 1 800 575-9200,  
by fax at (613) 941-1296 or by e-mail at  
[schoolnet@ic.gc.ca](mailto:schoolnet@ic.gc.ca), or visit the Web site  
[www.schoolnet.ca](http://www.schoolnet.ca).

Publications Mail Agreement No. 1755536



# How Well Do You Know SCHOOLNET'S WEB NEIGHBOURS?

By Doug Walker

**T**hat might seem a rather odd question to ask. After all, the Web's reputation as a community of learning resources is hardly news.

In fact, today's Web is teeming with resources promoting learning. Just pick a topic, any topic, and your favourite search engine will delightedly come up with page upon page of URLs.

But, hang on! Doesn't "researching" on the Web seem suspiciously similar to the multi-channel surfing of TV couch potatoes? Lots of variety, but not much substance. Maybe it's having too much variety that leads all too often to superficial flitting from one resource to another. It's time to be frank: how much in-depth research with search engines do we actually see going on?

The problem? The Web's best education sites are frequently complex because they are rich in content. Many (such as SchoolNet) are hundreds of Web pages deep, chock-full of learning content and teaching tools. It does take some time to get to know such sites, but the rewards can be great when you invest the time to explore them thoroughly.

Let's start in our own backyard. Click on the Partners menu on the main SchoolNet page. How well do you know your SchoolNet neighbours — the education Web sites of Canada's provinces and territories? Each has a splendid selection of curriculum resources, teaching ideas, articles and links that are interesting and useful to educators. Invest some time in getting to know them well.

Still in our own backyard, have you explored the Ask an NIS Expert feature of the SchoolNet Network of Innovative Schools' Web site ([www.schoolnet.ca/nis-rei/webboard/e/](http://www.schoolnet.ca/nis-rei/webboard/e/))? Are you interested in using ICT to make learning go further, but you're not sure where to start? Are you unclear about what tools and approaches to use? Ask an expert from the Network and start off on the right foot. Network experts are eager to share their practical ICT know-how with you, right from their classrooms. It's priceless, hands-on knowledge.

Now, let's travel virtually to Europe to get to know Canada's superb neighbour (and cousin), European Schoolnet ([www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/en/index\\_eun.html](http://www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/en/index_eun.html)).

In some ways, European Schoolnet feels a lot like home! More than 20 countries and cultures, compared to Canada's 13 provinces and territories. It's a quadrilingual Web site, instead of a bilingual one, although both Canada's official languages are represented.

European Schoolnet is a magnificent resource for learning about other cultures and perspectives. Check out eSchoolnet, Europe's multilingual portal for schools ([www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/en/index\\_eschoolnet.html](http://www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/en/index_eschoolnet.html)).

Here you will find lots of opportunities to twin with schools and classes in European countries. Looking for fresh ideas about learning? Try exploring eSchoolnet for new answers. Looking for content resources? Take a tour of European Schoolnet's Virtual School. Looking for information on the latest ICT research or on the latest and best educational software? There's no better place to start than European Schoolnet's Web site, or those of its member nations. To this observer, our European cousins are particularly strong in research and projects. The UK's National Grid for Learning site ([www.ngfl.gov.uk/index.jsp](http://www.ngfl.gov.uk/index.jsp)) is a good example.

Next, we're off to visit EdNA, Education Network Australia ([www.edna.edu.au/](http://www.edna.edu.au/)). Here again, what dazzles the virtual visitor is the wealth of resources from around the world.

EdNA Online enables educators to learn about 15 000 education resources, including articles and software. Its search engine is user friendly and lightning fast. The site also hosts Australia's National Software Evaluation Project, which provides wise and timely guidance on choosing learning-relevant software.

Realizing that users of its site have varying interests and needs, EdNA has created various entry points to its resources, depending on whether a user is a teacher, a school administrator, a parent or a student. There are similarities to America OnLine's AOL@SCHOOL Web site ([school.aol.com/](http://school.aol.com/)), but EdNA has a flavour and a depth uniquely its own.



New Zealand's Ministry of Education, as one of its many initiatives, provides The Online Learning Centre ([www.tki.org.nz/e/tki/](http://www.tki.org.nz/e/tki/)), worth taking a look at as a model of educational Web site design. This bilingual Web site (English and Maori) is very user friendly, informative and inspiring, without being overwhelming. Education is presented as being people-centred rather than institution-centred.

Check out the Idea Bank ([www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/ideabank/index.htm](http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/ideabank/index.htm)) page for excellent, low-key tips on building ICT into teaching. The Communities page, my personal favourite, presents subject areas as inter-related learning communities. Each of these has up-to-date resources, discussion areas and useful insights to share.

Now let's travel virtually to South Africa's SchoolNet Web site ([www.school.za/](http://www.school.za/)).

What stands out immediately is the site's vision of the power and potential of ICT to affect learning. Perhaps this is something we North Americans take for granted. So a visit to our South African neighbours is a great refresher course on what ICT means for the

learner. Take time to browse the site in detail. Its visionary energy is contagious!

One of the wonders of the Web is that it is global. It enriches us with new perspectives, often with fresh ways of seeing. Get to know SchoolNet's neighbours on the Web well. You'll be glad you did!

*A seasoned virtual traveller, Ottawa teacher Doug Walker is the editor of SchoolNet Magazine.*

# Free Aboriginal Learning Resource Materials



**We have what you're looking for!**

Available at:  
[www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)

Or order  
from our kiosk:  
**(819) 997-0380**



Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada

Canada

# PARTNERSHIP HELPS STUDENTS Take on New Roles

By Stephanie Mitchell



**S**tudents at Canso High School aren't just students anymore — they're businesspeople and educators.

Working in partnership with Sable Offshore Energy, eight Grade 11 and 12 students at this high school in Nova Scotia had the opportunity to network with professionals across the province last year while creating a CD-ROM about this local venture. With a little help from their teacher, Mike Dallien, the students developed a digital teaching manual about the natural gas industry for Sable and for Canadian educators to use in their classrooms.

Dallien says making the CD was a lot of work. However, he and the students weren't alone. They gladly tapped into a network for help and expertise. Students travelled to Cape Breton and Halifax to work with professionals in the field of multimedia production. Dallien believes these meetings helped polish the CD and encourage the students.

"They see a similarity now between themselves and people in a professional environment. They're doing the same kinds of things," he says. "I think that was

a boost for their egos, knowing that they've met with people who are producing commercial CDs and they're talking about the same concerns the kids have."

Working on the CD helped confirm two students' decisions to study computer technology after high school, says Dallien. Those students are now doing a course in computer programming and software development at CompuCollege in Halifax.

Working on the CD also opened a whole new horizon for the rest of the students.

"They certainly go off with a much bigger bag of skills," says Dallien. The CD is based on Microsoft PowerPoint, so the students are now familiar with that program, which they can use to make presentations. As well, they learned how to work with digital cameras and scanners.

Dallien also thinks that because the students knew the CD would be circulated across the country, they put a lot more care into making sure it was 100 per cent accurate.

The CD includes practical teaching units about the chemistry of natural gas, the mathematics of the extraction process and the language skills of writing an application for a job with Sable.

Studying offshore energy is important at this school because it's part of the

local community. "We're sitting on the edge of the Scotian shelf, and basically Sable is just offshore from here. So, because we had the resource in our backyard and the expertise nearby, we decided it would be a natural choice," says Dallien.

He doesn't expect only local students and teachers to benefit from the CD-ROM. "Because the pipeline goes across the country, and because it's in the news a lot, it would be a typical thing for a school in Vancouver or a school in Moose Jaw."

And what does Sable think of the work?

Sable won't see everything until the CD covers are ready, but Dallien says that, so far, "they seem to be very, very pleased." Sable has even increased the company's financial commitment, if the school wants to add more curriculum support materials. Dallien is considering working on an elementary-school version with his computer class this year.

In the meantime, watch for the Sable Offshore Energy CD-ROM at a high school near you.

*Canso High School is a 2000 Member of SchoolNet's Network of Innovative Schools. Stephanie Mitchell is a freelance writer with Canada's SchoolNet.*

# Taking the “ROOM”

## Out of “ClassROOM”

By Samir Khan

**D**istance learning, which has been around in various forms for some time, is now providing flexibility for both students and school administrators by using the Internet to make courses available online.

New Brunswick's Department of Education has had significant success with its e-learning programs. Thanks to recent efforts, some 22 high school courses are now available, for free and for full credit, to all of the province's students. Eleven teachers, based out of schools across the province, now serve the needs of more than 2500 registered students. Each school has a technical facilitator who serves as a trainer, supervisor and repairperson in the computer labs. Courses offered include Spanish, Canadian geography and physics.

Harold Nicholson is a teacher at James M. Hill Memorial High School in Miramichi, New Brunswick. He has been involved in designing and implementing many courses now offered in New Brunswick schools. Now, he teaches economics and history courses exclusively online, having left behind the standard classroom he taught in for more than 30 years.

"I'm a firm believer in the idea that every student should have access to every course approved by the Department of Education," he says. "It used to be a problem for kids attending schools in small towns. Some specialized courses simply couldn't be offered in some schools because only five kids would register for them. For some school boards, it isn't possible to devote resources to classes that small."

E-courses are helping school administrators address these issues. E-courses work on very basic principles. Every day, teachers post new readings and assignments to a class Web site. Assignments range from essays written on word processors to PowerPoint slide presentations that replace classroom presentations. Students talk with teachers through e-mail or by participating in Internet-based chat rooms allocated for each course. All students need is access to a computer and an Internet connection.

In 1997, with help from the New Brunswick Department of Education, James M. Hill High, a member of SchoolNet's Network of Innovative Schools, invested some \$700 000 in a computer-based learning centre that served as a prototype for other New Brunswick schools. From this facility, Nicholson conducts his economics and history classes, answering e-mails, moderating chat rooms and marking assignments. While he never sees his students, he believes that "e-courses" give students a more personalized education than traditional classes do.

"E-courses probably add a greater degree of one-on-one interaction with students than a regular classroom," he

maintains. "When they come into a chat room or send an e-mail, the teacher deals directly with the student."

Nicholson also believes that distance courses help prepare students for the type of working habits they will need in university. "With these courses, there's no teacher making them sit through a lecture or telling them to do their homework," he says. "I've had several of my former students tell me that every student should take at least one distance course to prepare them for university. They're not for everyone, though. It must be understood that some students are not capable of handling the technology or have the required self-initiative."

Nicholson says that his new role as an "e-teacher" has been immensely satisfying from a professional standpoint.

"I can truly say that after 32 years I am enjoying teaching now more than at any time in the past," he says. "I feel like I am making a difference to students who can now have opportunities that would never have been open to them. I really don't look forward to retirement!"

*Samir Khan is on special assignment with SchoolNet's Network of Innovative Schools.*





## *Bring a new dimension to your classroom*

Engaging young minds is no small task. To educate and inspire your students, you need the right tools.



VIRTUAL MUSEUM  CANADA

The Virtual Museum of Canada is a unique Internet gateway featuring powerful search options to help you find the educational materials you need. Lesson plans, games and virtual exhibits from Canadian museums are all at your disposal. Besides classroom resources, the VMC provides an in-depth look at Canada's rich and diverse heritage, as well as guides to activities and events at nearby museums.

Visit the Teachers' Center at [virtualmuseum.ca](http://virtualmuseum.ca) to learn more.



[www.Sympatico.ca](http://www.Sympatico.ca)



# Networking in the

## FAR NORTH

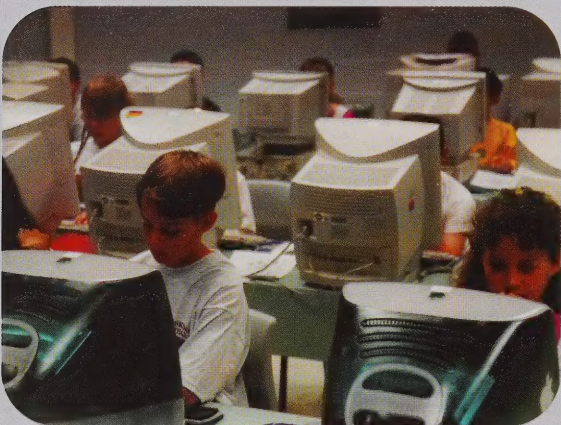
By Stephanie Mitchell

**F**or students in the isolated northern community of Kangiqsualujuaq, networking is essential. Their small town of 680 people doesn't have a library, a museum or even a newspaper stand.

It is one of the 14 Inuit communities in Nunavik, northern Quebec. You can only get to Kangiqsualujuaq by plane or ship.

For Mark Brazeau, this isolation means technology plays a fundamental role in linking his students with the rest of the world. Mark is a teacher at École Ulluriaq School, a 2001 member of SchoolNet's Network of Innovative Schools.

This Grade 6 teacher uses the Internet to study ecology in the area, while his students get advice from experts much further south. With the electronic advice of biologists, Brazeau and his class took a trip up river to collect arctic char eggs. They fertilized the eggs and put some into stream incubators just outside town, and some into a school incubator the students had built themselves.



Brazeau says students have a lot of complicated questions about arctic char that he just can't answer on his own.

"They'll ask questions like, 'If the arctic char doesn't do its migration out to sea, is it still fertile?'"

"And I can't find the answer to that here, with no library! It would be literally impossible for me to answer their questions with the limited resources we have."

E-mailing biologists is also important to the students because it turns specialists and experts into real people. "I grew up thinking biologists lived in big towers in universities, but [to the students] it's just someone at the other end of the computer," says Brazeau.

He doesn't check his students' spelling or grammar; he just encourages them to send their questions off. "For me, that's a success story in itself — my students being courageous enough to go out there and find the information when they know that they can get it."

One of his students, Sapina Snowball, is especially eager to use e-mail to learn more about life in the South. When she went south for appendix surgery over the Christmas break, she got her doctor's e-mail address. Now, she e-mails him to find out about the weather and how he lives.

Ulluriaq was recently hooked up to satellite as part of the Satellite Multimedia Trials for Schools pilot project run by Canada's SchoolNet and Telesat Canada. The school has seen major improvements in their download time for larger files and videoconferencing, an area in which they are eager to expand. A drawback of satellite connection, unfortunately, is that browsing capabilities are limited to the equivalent speed of a modem connection.

But Brazeau says he doesn't mind that the school has a slower Internet connection, as Kangiqsualujuaq is the only one of the 14 Inuit communities to even have a school connection. All the other schools had been hooked up to phone lines, but the long distance bills were just too expensive.

Brazeau only wishes the other Inuit schools were online, because then his students and the students in the other communities could share their knowledge of the region.

But, he says, it's also important for his students to learn about other ways of life. Also, e-mails from southern areas show that other people are interested in their traditional Inuit life.

A girl in Calgary has e-mailed them, trying to guess the Arctic plants pictured on the school Web site, and a dairy farmer in the U.S. has asked what kinds of lures they use for fishing.

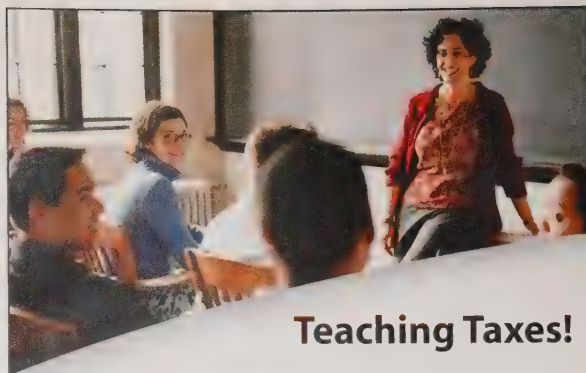
"I think it's good for their self-esteem to see so much interest in the life that they live," says Brazeau. "You know, it can be very isolating, thinking that this is all there is."

Having a reliable Internet connection in the school also provides a practical tool for the students' parents.

He says students and their parents will check snowmobile Web sites, because there are no snowmobile pamphlets or stores in Kangiqsualujjuaq. At the school, it takes 30 seconds to download the first page of the Bombardier Skidoo Web site, while at the students' homes it would literally take 15 minutes. (Homes in the community only have access to the slow phone-line connection.)

Right now, the school's Internet connection is probably the best it will ever be — which is fine by him. He says this kind of technology is more important for his remote school than for southern schools, because it has so few resources in comparison.

*Stephanie Mitchell is a freelance journalist on special assignment with Canada's SchoolNet.*



## Teaching Taxes!

Get **free** learning material on:

- Canada's tax system; and
- how to complete a basic income tax and benefit return.

For more information or to order learning material, visit the Teaching Taxes Program Web site at:

[www.ccra.gc.ca/teachtax](http://www.ccra.gc.ca/teachtax)



More Ways to Serve You!  
Pour vous servir encore mieux!



Canada Customs  
and Revenue Agency

Agence des douanes  
et du revenu du Canada

Canada

# Online Atlas Showcases Canada

Do you want to see the population distribution in Canada? The country's expected temperature changes over the next 50 years? The forest fire hot spots?

The Atlas of Canada ([atlas.gc.ca](http://atlas.gc.ca)), from Natural Resources Canada, helps teachers turn geography lessons into interactive learning experiences. Students and teachers can find hundreds of interactive maps on a host of geographic topics. The Atlas also offers a wide range of learning resources, from reference maps to interactive information on the art and science of map drawing.

The  
**Atlas**  
of Canada



L'Atlas  
du Canada

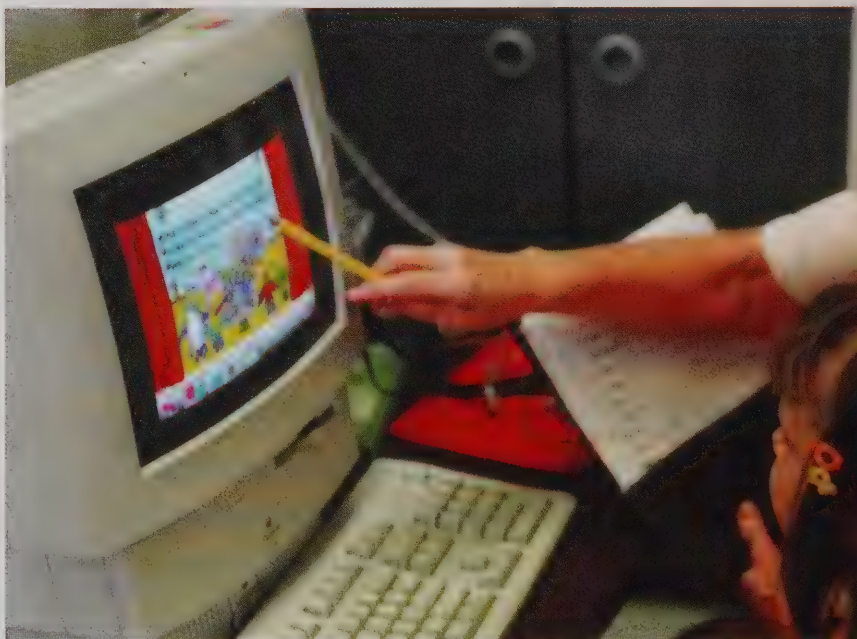
# HELPING KIDS SURF SAFELY: Practical Tips for Parents

By Jane Tallim

One of the major issues for parents today is managing their family's Internet use. This is especially true in Canada; this country leads the world in being connected to the World Wide Web, and many children and youths have integrated the Internet into their daily lives. In fact, kids use the Internet as easily as their parents read newspapers or make telephone calls.

This situation has its advantages and its downside. The Internet opens up wonderful opportunities to children for education, entertainment and socializing. But national research by the Media Awareness Network (MNet) reveals that the online part of kids' lives goes largely unsupervised. During school vacation, they are likely spending even more time alone in cyberspace.

MNet's research, *Young Canadians in a Wired World*, also shows that some kids take risks online: they enter adults-only chat rooms, download pirated software, access porn sites or give out personal information to total strangers. In some



cases, they even go alone to meet people they know only through the Internet.

What can parents do to help their kids get the best out of the Internet, while avoiding the risks? Here are five practical tips for raising the Internet generation.

1. Get involved. Go on the Internet with your kids, get to know what they like doing, and direct them to kid-friendly sites and search engines.
2. Develop a family online agreement. Work with your kids to create rules on appropriate Internet use.
3. Make privacy Rule #1. Have a strict rule that your kids must ask your

permission before giving out any personal information on the Internet to anyone, for any reason.

4. Teach kids to separate fact from fiction. Encourage your kids to think critically about what they see, read or are told online, and to verify the information and its source.
5. Promote ethical behaviour. Your children need to understand that acts such as downloading pirated software, breaking into other people's Web sites, and making threats or hateful comments are unethical — and may be illegal.

Need some help? Don't worry about trying to do all of this on your own. MNet's Web site ([www.media-awareness.ca](http://www.media-awareness.ca)) has a full range of resource materials, including sample family online agreements, tip sheets for parents and kids, information about privacy and other online issues, and a lot more. You'll also find information on the *Young Canadians in a Wired World* Internet research. In addition, you can check out the federal government's Cyberwise strategy for safe, wise and responsible Internet use at [www.connect.gc.ca/cyberwise](http://www.connect.gc.ca/cyberwise).

*Jane Tallim is an Internet and media education specialist with the Media Awareness Network.*



## Snapshot of Canadian Kids Online

- Nearly all kids aged 9 to 17 (99 per cent) have used the Internet.
- Slightly less than half of the kids surveyed use the Internet from home for at least one hour a day.
- Almost three quarters have at least one e-mail account (44 per cent have accounts their parents don't know about).
- The following are the top eight favourite online activities:
  1. playing/downloading music
  2. e-mailing
  3. surfing
  4. playing/downloading games
  5. looking up non-school-related information
  6. instant messaging
  7. participating in chat rooms (a third of chat room users go "often" to adult chat rooms)
  8. doing research for homework, which parents think is their kids' top online activity.
- More than a third of 9- and 10-year-olds are alone "most of the time" when they use the Internet. More than half of 13- and 14-year-olds surf alone.

**Source:** *Young Canadians in a Wired World* — national research by MNet with funding from the Government of Canada ([www.media-awareness.ca](http://www.media-awareness.ca)).

## The Risks Kids Take Online

- More than half of the children and teens surveyed said they would give out their gender, age, name and e-mail address to enter a contest.
- A quarter of the kids have had someone they know only via the Internet ask to meet them in person; 15 per cent actually met the person.
- A quarter of the kids have also received pornography from someone they met online.
- Half of all secondary school students surveyed have had unwanted sexual comments made to them online.
- More than half of the kids (52 per cent) say they have "accidentally" ended up on porn sites "a lot"; and 26 per cent have visited them on purpose "a few times" or "a lot."
- A quarter of the kids have received e-mail material saying hateful things about others.
- Some 16 per cent said that they have posted hateful comments about a person or a group of people.
- Almost half of the kids report visiting sites with violent or gory pictures "sometimes" or "often."

**Source:** *Young Canadians in a Wired World* — national research conducted by MNet with funding from the Government of Canada ([www.media-awareness.ca](http://www.media-awareness.ca)).

# Feeding Your ICT CURIOSITY

By Zoë Macdonald

**S**ometimes it seems that the field of information and communications technology (ICT) is changing so quickly that by the time we master one tool, another one is waiting for us to learn and use. During these dynamic times, embracing change helps us find new ways to meet needs, to minimize learning barriers and to pursue our goals.

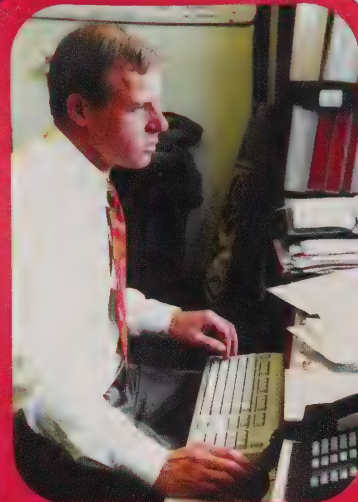
How do teachers use ICT to meet their goals? First, teachers learn what technology is available to them and then explore its potential for the classroom. One excellent way to do this is to attend conferences and workshops, where teachers can learn together and feed their curiosity about ICT and other education-related issues.

A poll conducted by Ipsos-Reid for Microsoft earlier this year found that 82 per cent of Canadians see a lack of teacher training as a barrier to integrating computers and the Internet into our schools. Given that 97 per cent of Canadians agree that computer technology and the Internet are important tools that enable Canadians to compete in the global economy, it only follows that well-equipped teachers can help their students gain a wealth of new skills to prepare for their future in the workforce.

Across Canada, workshops and conferences help to keep teachers up to date on the latest developments and to explore new possibilities these developments bring. The following gatherings are just a few of the events taking place across Canada in 2003 that may pique your interest:

- The All-Canadian Conference on Teaching and Learning  
January 16–18, 2003  
Gatineau, Quebec  
([www.twblearn.com/cancon/cancon.html](http://www.twblearn.com/cancon/cancon.html))
- Reaching and Teaching III  
April 2–5, 2003, Calgary, Alberta  
([www.rockyview.ab.ca/crc/](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/crc/))
- Alberta Teachers' Association Computer Council Conference 2003  
May 1–3, 2003, Jasper, Alberta  
([www.atacc.ab.ca/](http://www.atacc.ab.ca/))
- Summer Institute of the Institute for Knowledge Innovation and Technology  
August 2003  
([ikit.org/](http://ikit.org/))

Every year, the World Computer Congress hosts an international conference where delegates discuss leading-edge research and explore the potential benefits for society. The 2002 conference was held in Montréal in August, with great success. A workshop stream on telelearning, now better known as e-learning, was particularly relevant to teachers. You can visit the Web site at [www.wcc2002.org](http://www.wcc2002.org) to read papers and learn about workshop outcomes.



Provincial and territorial governments offer information about workshops and conferences through their responsibility for professional development. To learn more about what is offered in your area, visit your provincial or territorial education ministry's Web site. You can also search your teachers' federation Web site, ask your teachers' college about updating your qualifications or discuss your learning needs with your employer. For a comprehensive archive of conferences held in Canada, visit SchoolNet's Learning Resources site ([www.schoolnet.ca/home/e/resources/index.asp](http://www.schoolnet.ca/home/e/resources/index.asp)). Conferences are listed in the Staff Room section (in Teacher's Corner), under Professional Development.

There are many areas of ICT to learn about, from Web conferencing and online instruction to interactive student projects and video streaming. One thing that has not changed over time is that teachers who are engaged and excited about what they do can make a real difference in the lives of their students. Attending workshops and conferences is a great way to feed your curiosity and to get excited about the possibilities of ICT.

*Zoë Macdonald is on special assignment with Canada's SchoolNet.*



Government  
of Canada

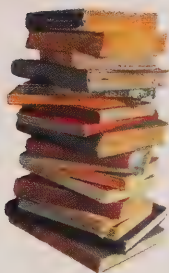
Gouvernement  
du Canada

## CANADA'S SCHOOLNET GRASSROOTS PROGRAM

Collaborative Learning Projects for the Internet

# Teacher Toolkit

Thinking about starting a SchoolNet GrassRoots project and not sure where to begin? Wondering what criteria you should fulfill and how? Need inspiration? GrassRoots is proud to present a completely revised **SchoolNet GrassRoots Teacher Toolkit**.



The Teacher Toolkit continues to be a great resource for educators, providing SchoolNet GrassRoots Project Tips, Publications, Resources and much more. New to the Toolkit is an Exemplary Practices section, which features top-notch projects that have been reviewed by education professionals. You can find the Toolkit by visiting the SchoolNet GrassRoots web site at [www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots](http://www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots).

### **Exemplary Practices** (*Available January 2003*)

The SchoolNet GrassRoots Exemplary Practices section of the Teacher Toolkit provides educators with an opportunity to browse through projects. These Exemplary Practices are excellent resources that showcase key components of a SchoolNet GrassRoots project including collaboration, content and Web site design. Exemplary Practices are available in several curriculum areas, including Environmental Studies presented by Ericsson and Technology Education presented by TransCanada.

### **SchoolNet GrassRoots Program**

The SchoolNet GrassRoots Program, together with its provincial, territorial and corporate partners, promotes academic, employability and computer skills in Canadian youth by integrating information and communications technologies into learning. The GrassRoots Program offers funding to schools for the creation of collaborative learning projects. GrassRoots projects are initiated, designed and implemented by the teacher and students, are curriculum relevant, focus on learning activities and culminate in the creation of a web site. All Canadian schools from Kindergarten to Grade 12 are invited to carry out GrassRoots projects.

[HTTP://WWW.SCHOOLNET.CA/GRASSROOTS](http://www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots)

Toll Free: 1-800-575-9200

E-mail: [gr@schoolnet.ca](mailto:gr@schoolnet.ca)

Canada 

# Communication Reaches New Heights

By Jennifer Kelly

It's new, it's cool and all the students love it. What is it, you ask? It's a new tool that allows students and teachers at 12 rural schools in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Ontario to communicate with their peers all over Canada.

These schools are participants in the Satellite Multimedia Trials for Schools pilot project run by Canada's SchoolNet and Telesat Canada. Each school received satellite equipment to give them high-speed Internet access to the Anik E2 satellite and the CA\*Net3 fibre-optic network. The project will demonstrate the impact of high-speed connectivity on student learning.

Roncalli High School in Port Saunders, Newfoundland and Labrador, had its new satellite installed and connected on March 21, 2002, and students there now communicate with other schools in the pilot via Web camera. According to Aurele Beaupre, the school's principal, "the new satellite speed is what allows video images to be transferred across the country without losing the quality of the video and audio. Telesat's technology provides these rural schools with high-speed Internet access that would otherwise not be possible. This new satellite means better multimedia applications, including access to video-conferencing technology. Schools are also able to use new Web caches to store downloaded video files and films."

Beaupre adds, "The school also has a Web server, which serves to host the school's Web site and local video files. The system has already been used as a means of distance

education. It has already paid dividends to our students at Roncalli." This is good news for Roncalli and other schools in District 2, Northern Peninsula and Labrador South, because this district is the biggest user of distance education in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Roncalli is really taking advantage of this new system. Students have used it to meet new people in other parts of Canada, to get help with a science project and even to talk to a former teacher! Melanie Gould and Jessica Goodland did just that. While trying to prepare for Roncalli's annual science fair, they ran into some problems with their project. They used the new satellite system to talk to Frank Shapleigh, a STEM~Net training officer based in Gander. When they used the Web camera to show him their problem, he was able to see what the girls were doing wrong and to give tips on how to fix it. This new satellite system allowed the girls to get help they otherwise would not have received at their school.

"I believe the satellite will bring new opportunities for the students and staff of the four schools in this province that are taking part in the trials. First, the higher speeds will permit better Internet access for student projects, research and collaboration. For the teachers, it will mean the same, plus enhanced opportunity for professional development," says Shapleigh.

"Second, the video conferencing equipment will give a whole new meaning to being able to conference in real time with other schools and facilities with similar equipment. To date, only one other school in the province, Holy Heart in St. John's, could do this. As already shown, this mode of interaction has brought a new richness to the experience. With the ability to do synchronous video, audio, white board and shared applications, this system can be used for collaborative work from science fair mentoring to distance education."

"Thirdly," notes Shapleigh, "the digital video capability of phase two, conducted in early May, gave the system the ability to store, share and deliver digital video to the desktop. Schools can search the various digital video repositories connected to CA\*Net3 and can download and store for future use. This is an exciting addition to the traditional array of learning resources."

Everyone involved in this new two-way satellite project is excited. For Roncalli and the other schools chosen for this trial, it allows teachers and students to change the way education is delivered and even thought about.

For more information on the project, visit [www.telesat.ca/schooltrials](http://www.telesat.ca/schooltrials).

*Jennifer Kelly is a student at Roncalli Central High School in Port Saunders, Newfoundland and Labrador, and is on assignment with the SchoolNet News Network. This article was adapted from the SchoolNet News Network.*

# Taking a Stand Against Online Crime

By Zoë Macdonald

**C**hildren are growing up today with the world at their fingertips. The Internet offers learning opportunities that no other generation has encountered before. However, just like the real world, cyberspace is not safe all of the time. Some people try to use the Internet for illegal purposes and pose a danger to our children.

Although children may not go looking for unlawful or offensive material on the Internet, they can be targeted through chat rooms, e-mail lists or pop-up windows. What can be done to protect children from the dangers of the Internet? With **Cybertip.ca**, help is on its way.

**Cybertip.ca** is a new pilot project that focusses on preventing crimes against children and youth on the Internet, including luring and sexual predation. The program offers advice to the public and educators on how to reduce the online victimization of children. Also, the **Cybertip.ca** Web site features learning tools that help children think critically while using the Internet.

Not only does **Cybertip.ca** help Canadians find relevant information; it is also a place for them to report incidents confidentially. This unique initiative connects users to the appropriate agencies for

dealing with illegal material or activity on the Internet. When people see anything online that seems questionable, they can report it confidentially through the Web site or a toll-free phone line.

This important project is being run by Child Find Manitoba, an organization that promotes the safety of children through education and awareness. With support from Industry Canada, **Cybertip.ca** works to keep children's online experiences both fun and educational, while helping children react appropriately in any type of threatening situation.

To be safe and smart surfers, children need to know how to protect their privacy and how to think critically about what they encounter online. Taking the time and making the effort to learn about the risks of the Internet are the first steps toward online safety. In the fight against online criminals and illegal content, prevention is the key. By equipping ourselves with knowledge, we make it harder for illegal content to flourish.

Parents, family members, children, teens, teachers, school officials and anyone interested in the safety of children can use **Cybertip.ca** to learn about safety and to take a stand against the online victimization of children. Keep your eyes and ears open, and acquaint yourself with the Web site, [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca). You can take positive action by staying involved when your kids use the Internet. **Cybertip.ca** is here to help you stay safe.

*Zoë Macdonald is on special assignment with Canada's SchoolNet.*



# Follow the Path to YouthPath

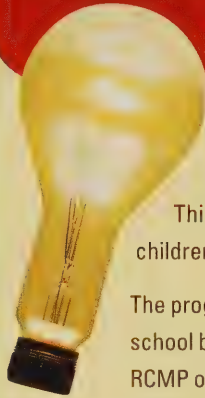
Want to know more about an exotic location? Need a summer job? Looking for information for your Canadian history project? Look no further! The answers to all these questions and more are now at your fingertips with YouthPath, a one-stop shop for government programs, services and information for youth.

The Government of Canada had a lot of help in creating YouthPath, a Web site developed for youth by youth. Hundreds of young people across the country had a hand in creating the topics, interface and text for the site. Human Resources Development Canada asked young people to participate, and they answered the call with full force. The result of their hard work and dedication? A fantastic, fun site, built just for youth!

So no matter what your question or concern, you're bound to find some great information on [www.YouthPath.ca](http://www.YouthPath.ca). Check it out today!



## Be **Bright** — Think **Right**



On April 23, 2002, the Government of Canada, the RCMP and Scouts Canada launched Be Bright — Think Right, a national child safety program aimed at children ages 5 to 11.

The program is designed to educate children about bullying, school bus safety, diversity and respect, and Internet safety. RCMP officers, local police and Scout leaders teach children across Canada about safety using the Be Bright Web site, video and online games. Industry Canada is pleased to be a partner in this program.

For more information, visit the Scouts Canada Web site ([www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca)).



## Share Your Resources!

Innovative teachers are always networking and sharing ideas. By doing so, they open classrooms to a world of learning opportunities. That's why @SchoolNet Today offers "Share Your Resources," a weekly feature of recommended online resources.

This is a great way to share your discoveries and learn from others. Share your favourite online resources today by sending an e-mail to [today@schoolnet.ca](mailto:today@schoolnet.ca). Then visit [www.schoolnet.ca/today](http://www.schoolnet.ca/today) to read the weekly edition of "Share Your Resources," as well as other interesting education-related articles!

# The Youth ZONE

## A Dynamic New Teaching and Learning Resource!

The **Youth Zone** of the Parliament Hill Web site "A Treasure to Explore" presents the history of Parliament Hill in a comprehensive, interesting and easy to use site for students and teachers.

It features information, resources and activities related to the selection of Barrack Hill as the site for Canada's Parliament Buildings, the Great Fire and reconstruction, modern times and a vision for the future.

The **Youth Zone** is subdivided into: **Time Zones**, the **Fun Zone**, the **Link Zone**, the **Virtual Zone** and the **Photo Gallery**.

The historical information is grouped into five **Time Zones**:

- Pre Construction, 1826–1858
- Construction, 1859–1916
- The Fire of 1916
- Reconstruction, 1916–1965
- Restoration, 1966–Present.

These Zones include significant historical information, many archival photographs, lithographs and paintings. There are dynamic images of the Great Fire, plus anecdotes and information about the proposals by architects, the rebuilding of the Centre Block, details about the materials used, even the landscaping!

Look in the **Fun Zone** for games and puzzles designed to reinforce students' knowledge of Parliament Hill. All the information needed to play the games and solve the puzzles can be found in the **Youth Zone**. The Jigsaw is offered at two levels of difficulty. Younger students will find images to download and colour, older ones will enjoy Word Searches and a Treasure Hunt. Some activities include certificates that can be printed to reward successful participants. New games and puzzles will be added in the next year.

The **Link Zone** connects students and teachers to related resources. New links will be added as this zone develops.

The **Virtual Zone** provides an exciting visual experience through a virtual tour of Parliament Hill, accessible at three different speeds to suit different computer setups.

To make the site easier to use:

- Photographs and illustrations accompanying the text can be enlarged to reveal more detail.
- The **Photo Gallery** is a link to find all the photographs, paintings and illustrations on the site.
- Historical information is presented in larger print for easier reading.
- The site design and colours have been chosen for eye appeal.
- A friendly Gargoyle image has been selected as a theme character.

(Keep checking the **Fun Zone** for a "Name the Gargoyle" contest.)

"And that's just the beginning," says Pierre Téotonio, Project Manager for the *Parliament Hill: A Treasure to Explore* Web site. "More features will be added in the next year — sound bites and QuickTime movies, more activities and a Gargoyle Gallery".

The **Youth Zone** will enrich the experience and understanding of any students who come to visit Ottawa.

Be sure to visit *Parliament Hill: A Treasure to Explore* and check out the new **Youth Zone**.

[http://www.parliamenthill.gc.ca/zone/zoneyouth\\_home\\_e.html](http://www.parliamenthill.gc.ca/zone/zoneyouth_home_e.html)

[http://www.parliamenthill.gc.ca/zone/zoneyouth\\_home\\_f.html](http://www.parliamenthill.gc.ca/zone/zoneyouth_home_f.html)

Ethel Thayer  
Education Consultant

# Go Global in the Classroom

Teachers, principals, administrators! The Canadian International Development Agency invites you to take part in the Global Classroom Initiative (GCI). Encourage your students to become citizens of the world and help them discover the important role Canadians play overseas.

GCI provides financial support for the development of school-based global education resources and activities, as well as professional development opportunities for educators.

Find out more by checking out our Web site ([www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/gci](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/gci)) or by calling (819) 997-1663 or 1 800 230-6349. You can also reach us by e-mail at [imc\\_gci@cida.gc.ca](mailto:imc_gci@cida.gc.ca).

## Latest Arrival on the SchoolNet Network of Innovative Schools Site!

By Sophie Scherrer

In May, SchoolNet's Network of Innovative Schools launched its brand new monthly e-zine. Under the headings New Technologies, Integration, Research, Opportunities, Expert of the Month, Multimedia Showcase and Talk Back, you can find all the information you need to successfully integrate information and communications technology (ICT) into the learning environment of your school — a great experience for you and your students!

The New Technologies section takes a close look at some of the technological tools Network members use in their classrooms. The Integration section describes some of the practices that allow these schools to integrate ICT into their curricula to enhance the learning process. The Research section provides in-depth information about the impact of ICT on learning and how Network members have managed to achieve educational changes within the Canadian school system.

If you would like to participate in collaborative projects with colleagues from across Canada and all over the world, the Opportunities section is for you. If you have questions about how to integrate ICT into your classroom, go to the Expert of the Month section and consult a specialist.

Learn about concrete examples of innovation! Visit the Multimedia Showcase to take a look at some of the exciting projects that are going on in member schools all across Canada.

Finally, read the monthly Talk Back section, where a teaching professional offers his or her vision on integrating multimedia into teaching.

Visit SchoolNet's Network of Innovative Schools multimedia e-zine at [www.schoolnet.ca/nis-rei/e/eneews](http://www.schoolnet.ca/nis-rei/e/eneews).

*Sophie Scherrer is a student at the Université du Québec à Hull and is on special assignment with Canada's SchoolNet.*



# deal.org

## Makes it Happen for Youth

By Matthew Limarilli

**A** group of 18 youths from Ottawa is out to prove that young people can make a difference, both on the Internet and in their communities. **deal.org**, an initiative of the RCMP's National Youth Strategy, began in 1997. Originally focussed on educating youth about drugs, the program has blossomed into something greater than anyone expected.



**deal.org** has two main facets, the first of which is its Web-zine, an online magazine. Informative and entertaining, the Web-zine encourages youths to express themselves, while giving them the tools and space to do so. With the recently developed **deal** localization engine, young people will be able to work together to develop and manage (with the help of adult advisors) a **deal.org** Web-zine specific to their community.

The second and perhaps most critical facet of **deal.org**'s mission is found in its marketing slogan, "Make it happen." A national marketing campaign, launched last summer, used the slogan to encourage youth to get away from wandering the

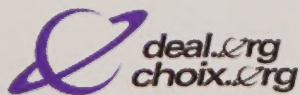
streets and doing drugs, and to follow a healthier, more positive path in life. "Make it happen" encourages young people to be active members of their communities and, eventually, to be leaders in society.

Our most important project is our partnership with SchoolNet's GrassRoots program. **deal.org** has taken its "Make it happen" philosophy into the classroom with **school@venture**, an initiative that challenges students to create a project dealing with issues affecting youth in their school or community. Through **school@venture**, students develop important skills, have the chance to help others and learn the value of positive actions. Geared toward the existing school curriculum and designed not

to tax teachers, the **school@venture** project provides a unique and creative way for students to improve the environment of their school or community.

Since they're driven by dedication and passion, there's no telling just how much the youth crew at **deal.org** can accomplish and what students can do to make a difference. With big plans for the future and growing support everywhere, **deal.org** is headed in the right direction — and we invite you and your students to come with us!

*Matthew Limarilli is Web site Director for **deal.org** and is on special assignment with Canada's SchoolNet.*



## SCHOOLNET GRASSROOTS

### Building ICT skills from the GrassRoots up

The private sector has played an important role in helping Canadian students harness information and communication technology through the SchoolNet GrassRoots Program. SchoolNet GrassRoots gratefully acknowledges the support of its corporate sponsors whose generous contributions have helped fund thousands of GrassRoots projects involving millions of students from across Canada.

#### Platinum

#### GRASSROOTS SPONSORS 2002



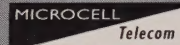
#### Gold

Imperial Oil

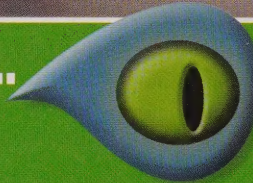


COREL

#### Silver



check out the latest...



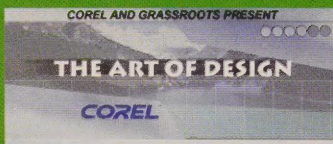
### SchoolNet GrassRoots Theme Projects



[www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots/e/showcase/cn](http://www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots/e/showcase/cn)



[www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots/e/showcase/cisco](http://www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots/e/showcase/cisco)



[www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots/e/showcase/corel](http://www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots/e/showcase/corel)



[www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots/e/showcase/imperial](http://www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots/e/showcase/imperial)